

•Return to Kosovo •School for Air Defenders •And a . . .

Cool map to pull out and hang up!

The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Soldiers

March 2003

www.soldiersmagazine.com



Special Feature

Buildup in the Gulf

Soldiers

March 2003 Volume 58, No. 3

BUILDUP IN



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

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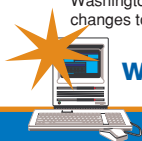
Editor in Chief: LTC John E. Suttle
Managing Editor: Gil High
Production Editor: Steve Harding
Art Director: Helen Hall VanHoose
Associate Art Director: Paul Henry Crank
Senior Editor: Heike Hasenauer
Associate Editor: SFC Lisa Gregory
Photo Editor: SSG Alberto Betancourt
Special Products Editor: Beth Reece
Graphic Designer: LeRoy Jewell
Executive Secretary: Joseph T. Marsden

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Steve Harding



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Special Cover Feature

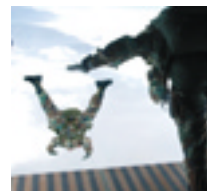
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U.S. and Latin American soldiers gathered in Chile to hone their peacekeeping skills.



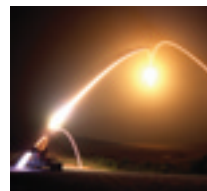
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American soldiers continue to help keep the peace in the war-torn Balkan nation.



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At Fort Bliss, Texas, soldiers learn the art and science of modern air defense.



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Front cover:

Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade practice their close-combat skills at a firing range in the Kuwaiti desert.

— Photo by Heike Hasenauer

◀ 4



From the Editor

AS of this writing, preparations continue for the likelihood of war with Iraq. To provide you with exclusive coverage of our Army's preparations for war, we sent veteran **Soldiers** correspondents Heike Hasenauer and Steve Harding to Kuwait, where they were given unprecedented access to U.S. forces.

In "Buildup in the Gulf," Heike and Steve capture the essence of the scale and complexity of preparations for war. Their words and images freeze that moment in time before combat when soldiers experience a combination of uncertainty and exhilaration in a place far, far from home.

To help track ongoing developments in the Middle East, in this issue we've included a handy **Soldiers** Situation Map. Modeled after a hurricane-tracking map, on one side you'll find the entire Persian Gulf area of operations, along with suggested Web sites for keeping up with the latest developments. On the reverse is a map of the world.

As always, we here at **Soldiers** hope you find this issue interesting and informative.

John C. Duttelle

Spiritual Food

WHETHER intentional or not, in your December issue you discussed food both spiritual ("Serving God and Country") and physical ("From Horse Blood to Hot Pockets").

Both kinds are what soldier fitness is all about. The Army is doing a great job of feeding its force.

*Chaplain (LTC) John D. Griffith, USAR
Des Moines, Iowa*

Lacrossed Signals

I WAS delighted to see some photos from the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., area in your December "Sharp Shooters" section — especially a picture of a member of the women's lacrosse team of my alma mater, Loyola College.

However, your caption erroneously identified the two players in the picture as "high school lacrosse players." Both players are collegiate-level, and the field they were playing on is located on Loyola's campus on the northern edge of Baltimore.

Loyola College has an outstanding Army ROTC training program and the women's and men's lacrosse programs are perennial powerhouses in Division I play.

It was great to see a Greyhound player in **Soldiers** magazine, but I couldn't let the caption slide.

*CPT Charles A. Musante
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.*

Thanks for the correction. As we've said in the past, we assume that the captions for photos provided to us by non-staff photographers are correct. When they aren't, we're always glad when

Awesome Almanac

I AM an ROTC instructor at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass.

I recently received copies of the 2002 Almanac and have found it to be an outstanding teaching aid for new cadets, as well as an excellent recruiting tool for new cadets.

I'd like to request 30 additional copies of the Almanac, if they are available. These will be used as study guides for new cadets and as recruiting tools.

Please let me know if you can fill this request.

*CPT Nathan Gruver
via e-mail*

Thanks for the kind words, and your extra copies are on the way.

I RECEIVED a copy of the 2003 Almanac today and, as usual, it is an excellent product and ready reference.

I do have one small correction, however: The caption for photo 4 on page 40 in "This Is Our Army" identifies the non-American soldiers as Czechs. While the training area was in the Czech Republic, the non-American soldiers are Polish, not Czech.

*LTC Evan Miller (Ret.)
Versailles, Ky.*

someone can set us — and the original photographer — straight.

Low on the Pole...

THE November article "Updating the OER System" was very interesting.

However, I am troubled that the author used the term "totem pole" to end his article. There are many native Americans in the military who do not like this reference.

*Russell J Bagley
via e-mail*

Not Star Trek

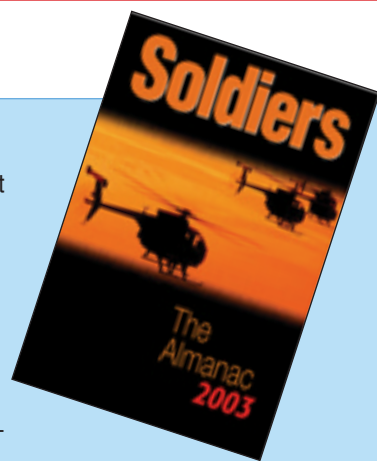
IMAGINE my embarrassment when I saw the cover of

October's issue. It seems to me that a contractor wants to make some money on a "cool look" that is based on some misconception of the Army's future "Star Trek" warrior.

Maybe the guy in the cover shot is playing laser tag or paintball, but his helmet and the other parts of his "uniform" have no realistic role in a real infantry unit.

I spent four years in the infantry and I would never wear that helmet. I agree with the need for taking advantage of our technology, but we can go too far. Don't give some contractor the satisfaction of selling the Army useless junk.

*CPT Darin Gaub
Fort Huachuca, Ariz.*



Wildfire Unit

AFTER reading the October article on the wildfire-fighting operations undertaken by the soldiers of the Oregon National Guard, I couldn't help notice a reference at the very end of the article to an active-duty battalion from Fort Riley, Kan. In case you were unable to locate the name of that battalion, it was the 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery.

CPT Richard D. Wellman Jr.
via e-mail

Service Flags

WE'VE received many letters and e-mails noting that the Service Flags featured in our July issue cannot, as the author implied, be ordered online from the manufacturer, Annin & Company. When contacted, the firm suggested that customers order the flags

locally, or by calling the American Legion at (888) 453-4466.

Why SDAP?

AS of Oct. 1 the Army has granted increased Special Duty Assignment Pay (SDAP) for career counselors.

The U.S. Total Army Personnel Command Web site states that: "SDAP is a monthly incentive to enlisted soldiers who have assignments that are extremely demanding or require a high degree of responsibility." So, let me see if I understand this. A career counselor can get almost as much SDAP as a drill sergeant or an airborne, ranger or special forces soldier?

I've been a drill sergeant for two years and a member of the 82nd Airborne Division for 12 years, and I do not under-

stand why a career counselor should receive an additional \$220 per month. Is their job really that demanding?

Name withheld by request

No Bosnia Medal?

IT is amazing that the Defense Department has produced a campaign medal for those who served in Kosovo, yet has forgotten those who have served in Bosnia.

What makes Kosovo duty more of a priority for a campaign medal? From what I saw when I was in Bosnia with SFOR, and from what was briefed to me by those who went to Kosovo, they are pretty much the same as far as mission tasks, schedules,

environment and dangers.

I think it's time for our leaders to give service members who have done time for IFOR and SFOR what they deserve — a Bosnia campaign medal.

SPC John A. Clements
Fort Rucker, Ala.

Online Privilege

I RETIRED from the Army in 1991. Until today, I had only seen **Soldiers** magazine very infrequently.

The online version allows me the privilege (yes, privilege) of again reading your magazine on a regular basis.

Thank you!

SFC Dan Mills (Ret.)
via e-mail

Soldiers is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: Feedback, **Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: soldiers@belvoir.army.mil.



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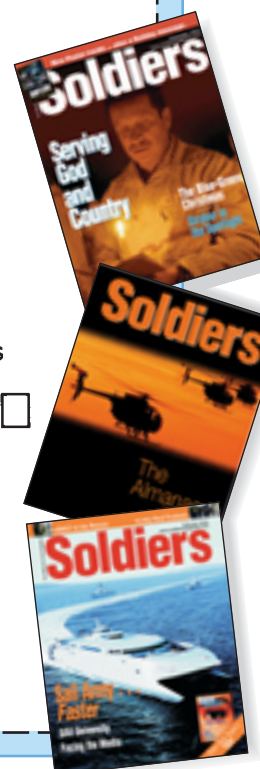
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Buildup in the Gulf

Story by Heike Hasenauer

Photos by Heike Hasenauer and Steve Harding



Soldiers of Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, race to a Patriot launcher during a Scud drill. The ADA unit is one of several tapped to provide air defense coverage during the U.S. buildup in Kuwait.

Steve Harding



Newly arrived in Kuwait, soldiers of the 3rd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div., prepare their Bradley fighting vehicles for movement to forward camps.

Heike Hasenauer





March 2003



Buildup in the Gulf

In early January all signs pointed to another war against Iraq as soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade flooded into Kuwait — some 4,000 over a four-day period — said LTC Geoff Ward, the brigade's executive officer.

British, German and Czech soldiers were among coalition-force soldiers on the ground. And U.S. military officials called the influx of forces the largest military buildup since the Gulf War.

During the first two weeks in

Steve Harding contributed to this article.

January, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld signed two large deployment orders to send a total of 62,000 military personnel, including thousands of Marines, to the Gulf region. And Defense Department officials said the United States could have as many as 150,000 troops in the Middle East by February.

Just a few hours after 3rd Inf. Div. soldiers of the Fort Benning, Ga.-based 3rd Bde. began pouring into Kuwait International Airport in the early morning hours of Jan. 11, PV2 Dallas Morrow and other members of the 1st Battalion, 15th Inf. Regiment,

found themselves in a sea of equipment at Camp Doha — the Combined Forces Land Component Command headquarters for coalition forces in Kuwait.

Their Bradley fighting vehicles and M1A1 Abrams tanks surrounded them. And cases of rations and water cluttered the marshalling area, along with everything from tool kits, oil and engine coolant to duffel bags, individual weapons and personal body armor, all of which they packed tightly into the vehicles before convoying across the desert to forward base camps later in the day.

The brigade had been in country

A convoy of Army vehicles — a common sight during the buildup — rolls along a Kuwaiti highway en route to positions near the Iraqi border.

Heike Hasenauer



Soldiers of the Army Reserve's 299th Engineer Co. practice launching floating bridge sections during training at a Kuwaiti naval base. The bridges could prove vital for crossing Iraq's several large rivers.

Steve Harding





Heike Hasenauer

earlier, from May to November, to participate in Exercise Desert Spring. “We went home just long enough to get a taste of what we’re missing,” Morrow said.

The division’s 2nd Bde., from Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., had remained in country since its participation in the exercise in May. And the division’s 1st Bde. was expected to begin arriving on Jan. 20, Ward said.

Bulldozers and forklifts rumbled about over wide expanses of desert, creating obvious sites for additional camps. And, while information provided to the media was extremely guarded, representatives in the area

Members of Btry. C beef up the overhead cover on one of the several bunkers dotting the unit’s compound.



Fully armed and ready to fire, Patriot launchers of Btry. C, 2nd Bn., 1st ADA, point skyward near a U.S. staging area under construction in the Kuwaiti desert.

Heike Hasenauer

saw numerous convoys of tracked vehicles and other equipment and busloads of soldiers being transported to forward-operating bases near the Iraqi border.

A camp located some 26 kilometers from Kuwait's northern border with Iraq had been renamed by soldiers of the 2nd Bde. Combat Team as Camp New York. Additional new camps in the desert included Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Virginia, said 2nd BCT spokeswoman MSG Emma Krouser.

A few kilometers from the Iraqi border, soldiers of the 2nd Bde. conducted target practice and live-fire drills in a makeshift MOUT village,

In Btry. C's command center, soldiers monitor the progress of one of the many drills conducted during the buildup.

March 2003

Steve Harding



IN KUWAIT



Beefed-up training for soldiers in Kuwait during the buildup included close-range target practice for 3rd Inf. Div. troops at a range constructed in the desert near the Iraqi border.

Heike Hasenauer

Heike Hasenauer



and the battalion surgeon, Dr. (CPT) Erik Schobitz, conducted advanced first-aid classes.

"We're definitely training for going to war," said PFC Fernando Machado of 2nd Bde. "We've been practicing clearing trenches, knocking out bunkers, clearing buildings, breaching and bypassing obstacles, conducting NBC training and preparing for counterattacks."

"I'm thinking what everybody else is thinking," said 19-year-old PFC Bobby Lansdon of 2nd Bde. "I really don't know what to think. I'm excited about serving my country, but at the same time, I'm a little scared."

Her NBC mask firmly in place, SPC Paris McField waits for the all-clear during a Scud drill at the Btry. C, 2nd Bn., 1st ADA Patriot site.

Back at Camp New York, SSG Anthony McCloyn and other members of Co. A, 10th Engineer Bn., pulled maintenance on M113 armored personnel carriers loaded down with large fluorescent cones and small bright flags that would be used to mark safe passages through enemy minefields.

"We've been training nonstop," McCloyn said, "and all our training to this point has focused on clearing the minefields. We've got to get it right the first time, so that the tanks and Bradleys can move forward. If they can't get to the front, they can't engage. It's that simple."

Elsewhere, soldiers of Battery C, 2nd Bn., 1st Air Defense Artillery Regt., a Patriot missile battery from Fort Bliss, Texas, continued to conduct



Scud-missile drills near Camp Arifjan, home of the Kuwait army's 15th Mubarek Armored Brigade.

And on the water, at the Port of Shuaiba, the Army logistics support vessel *SP4 James A. Loux* delivered medical supplies and equipment belonging to the 205th Area Support Medical Bn., an Army National Guard unit from Kansas City, Mo.

At the nearby Kuwait Naval Base several other Army vessels — including utility landing craft, tugboats and the newly commissioned high-speed theater support vessel *Spearhead* — awaited their next missions in support of the buildup of U.S. forces.

Infantrymen of the 2nd Bde., 3rd Inf. Div., prepare to clear a building during live-fire MOUT training at a site near Camp New York.

Steve Harding





Jersey walls at Camp Doha carry the logos and patches of units that have previously served in the Gulf region.

Heike Hasenauer



Steve Harding



Soldiers line up for dinner at Camp New York's dining facility. The desert outpost saw its population increase dramatically as the buildup continued.

The naval base was also the site of bridge-building training for soldiers of the Army Reserve's 299th Engineer Co. from Fort Belvoir, Va., who repeatedly practiced launching and assembling a floating bridge — an asset that would be crucial to coalition forces should they be required to cross the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, among others in Iraq.

Crew chief and raft commander SSG Matthew O'Brien was responsible for "anything going on in the water as a bridge is being assembled," he said.

During training in January, the 299th constructed a raft, which consisted of several interior "bays" with ramps. "The ferry bridge is the quickest way to get military forces to shore," said O'Brien. "We can trans-

port anything the military has, up to 70 tons at any one time, over a 215-meter bridge span."

CPT Marty Norvel of the 416th Engr. Command, a liaison officer to the three Army bridge companies that had either personnel or equipment in Kuwait in January, said the "multi-bridge companies would allow commanders at the highest level to project combat power across water or dry gaps, such as ditches and ravines."

Two other bridge companies of the 99th Regional Support Command — the 459th Engr. Co. from West Virginia and 671st Engr. Co., from Oregon — were expected to arrive in Kuwait in the coming weeks.

In January, as coalition forces continued arriving in Kuwait, marrying up with their equipment and moving

into forward positions, O'Brien and other 3rd ID soldiers conveyed their concern about possible war.

"Sure I'm scared," one young private said. "Who wouldn't be? But we're all well trained and ready to do our jobs."

And training was the key to keeping soldiers' fears at bay as they awaited possible action, said MG Henry W. Stratman, deputy commanding general of Third U.S. Army/U.S. Army Forces Central Command and the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

"It would be foolish for soldiers not to have some concerns," Stratman said. "We're in a dangerous business, and the possibility of action gives us all something to think about. But that's why we train so hard — so we'll be

As the battalion surgeon looks on, soldiers of the 3rd ID's 2nd Bde. practice their combat lifesaving skills during a lull in the live-fire MOUT training.



Heike Hasenauer

ready to execute any mission the president gives us. And I think our soldiers are superbly trained and ready for whatever comes.”

SGT Jose Blanco of the 3rd Inf. Div.'s 3rd Bde., 1st Bn., 15th Inf., summed up the feeling many soldiers expressed in early January as they trained for war in the vast Kuwaiti desert.

“Hopefully, the Iraqis will surrender quickly,” Blanco said. “A lot of the guys are just tired of playing Ping-Pong with Saddam Hussein.”

“I just want to get on with it. Let's go,” echoed O'Brien. “Let's do the job for the nation and go home.” □

Members of Co. A, 10th Engineer Bn., load fluorescent cones — used to mark lanes through minefields — aboard their M-113 at Camp New York.

Steve Harding



IN KUWAIT



At presstime, U.S. soldiers and Afghan militia troops were jointly engaged in heavy fighting with a large group of suspected Taliban fighters near the village of Spin Boldak. Supported by Army attack helicopters and Air Force fixed-wing aircraft, the soldiers and their Afghan allies had so far killed some 18 enemy fighters and captured several others.

U.S. forces graduated a fifth battalion of approximately 400 Afghan National Army soldiers in January. The sixth battalion, trained by the French army, was scheduled to graduate in February. At press time, 1,750 Afghan soldiers had graduated from the ten-week basic training course. The overall goal is to create an army more than 700,000 strong.

The Army, Navy and Marine Corps in late January announced increases in the numbers of Reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization, while the Air Force announced a slight decrease. At press time, 64,741 Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers were on active duty in support of the mobilization. The number of reserve-component personnel from all services was 94,624, including both units and individual augmentees.

Thousands of American service members have deployed to the U.S. Central Command area of operations in anticipation of new missions in the region. The largest deployment is that of the Army's 16,500-man 3rd Infantry Division to Kuwait. The division's 2nd Brigade was already in Kuwait, and the 3rd Bde. flew to Southwest Asia in early January. The division's 1st Bde., aviation assets and other support elements were scheduled to deploy to the area later that month. The Navy, Air Force and Marines had also deployed additional personnel to the region, and more deployments were expected to follow, DOD officials said.

An Afghan boy gets a routine eye exam from an 82nd Abn. Div. soldier during an Army medical-assistance visit to the boy's village.

SGT Preston Cheeks

SGT Preston Cheeks



A CH-47 Chinook lands on the outskirts of the village of Shin Kay, Afghanistan, to take aboard soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division bound for another objective during Operation Panther Climax.





Soldiers of the 82nd Abn. provide security while other unit members search a compound for weapons and suspected Taliban members during Operation Panther Climax.



SSG Leopold Medina Jr.



SGT Preston Cheeks

Children and adults of Afghanistan's Mirogul village receive school supplies from 82nd Abn. soldiers during a humanitarian-aid mission.

CPT Issac Kim (left) and SPC Patrick Neal of the 82nd Abn. apply medicine to a rash on an Afghan girl's stomach during a medical-assistance visit to the child's village.



SGT Preston Cheeks

John Byerly



President George W. Bush visits with Fort Hood soldiers and family members during a recent trip to Texas. Addressing a crowd of more than 4,000, the president spoke about recent increases in military pay, improvements in housing and about the quality of training that Army personnel receive. Fort Hood troops — who are currently deployed around the world — were subsequently alerted for deployment to Kuwait as part of the buildup for possible war with Iraq.

Fort Benning, Ga.

Soldiers Train Civilian Journalists

THE 2nd Battalion, 58th Infantry Regiment, hosted nearly 60 civilian journalists from around the world participating in a crash course in combat survival.

Soldiers from various units and directorates led training, which included the proper ways to enter and exit a helicopter; first aid; land navigation; reacting to direct and indirect fire; mine awareness; and protection against nuclear, biological and chemical warfare.

"It's mainly to help them and whatever unit they might be embedded with," said SFC Patrick Clements, a 2nd Bn. drill sergeant who was among

18 soldiers selected to serve as escorts for the visiting media. "The idea is to give them as much of a taste of Army life as we can pack into a week," he added.

The journalists rose before dawn, did physical training, marched five miles, learned to

low- and high-crawl, experienced MREs and learned to apply camouflage.

More than 400 journalists have volunteered to participate in the training, which will prepare them to deploy with military units. — *Army News Service*

Bridgett Siter



Members of the national and international press practice exiting a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the media training at Fort Benning.

Washington

Promotion Points for Online Courses

SOLDIERS can now receive promotion points for credits they've earned through vendor-based learning courses. U.S. Total Army Personnel Command has announced that soldiers can receive one promotion point for every five hours of computer based training completed.

The Army currently offers more than 1,500 technical and business computer courses via e-learning, all of which are available to active-duty and reserve-component soldiers and to DA civilians, and the courses can be accessed by Internet.

To browse the SmartForce Catalog or to register for the

program, log into Army Knowledge Online at www.us.army.mil. Once online, select "Education" under the "Self Service" menu, then click on "CBT."

For more information on the promotion point system visit the PERSCOM homepage at www.perscom.army.mil. — *Computer Based Training, Contracting Officer Representative, Fort Belvoir, Va.*

Washington

Database Provides Global Tripwire

DOD personnel are on guard against possible bio-terrorism attacks. They are scanning computer databases featuring outpatient treatment information gathered from more than 300 military hospitals and medical clinics worldwide.

The Electronic Surveillance System for Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics, or ESSENCE, is helping DOD detect both naturally occurring outbreaks of disease and potential bio-terrorism attacks, said Army Dr. (COL) Patrick W. Kelley, an epidemiologist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

To detect potential epidemics or bio-terror attacks, graphs of fresh medical data provided by ESSENCE are overlaid and examined alongside older data. If abnormal incidences of disease are observed, then an alert is provided to local public health officials, who investigate the situation and report back, Kelley said. — *ARNEWS*

Fort McPherson, Ga.

Reserve Safety Personnel Sought

U.S. ARMY Forces Command seeks reserve-component

soldiers to serve as safety officers and NCOs with its Army Safety Augmentation Detachment. Interested personnel should be captains, majors or sergeants first class.

Selected candidates will be required to attend FORSCOM's two-week Combat Safety Officers Course to learn the principles of risk management and concepts of integrating RM into Army operations.

The ASAD is at Fort McPherson and has approximately 98 Army Individual Mobilization Augmentees assigned. ASAD personnel serve as safety and risk-management officers augmenting headquarters safety staff.

For more information on the

ASAD program contact LTC Richard Cooper at (404) 464-7639 or visit the ASAD Web site at www.forscom.army.mil/safety. — *ASAD Public Affairs Office*

Washington

U.S. Brings Health Care to Afghans

THE United States has been "indispensable" in helping to restore health care in Afghanistan, said Dr. Abdullah Sherzai, director of planning at the Afghan Health Ministry in Kabul.

Sherzai, an American neurologist, gave up his research work at the National

Institutes of Health to go to Afghanistan.

In December, he accompanied Health Ministry officials to Washington to meet with U.S. leaders. In a Pentagon interview, Sherzai was the spokesman for Afghan Deputy Health Minister Ferozudin Feroz.

Expressing the minister's appreciation for America's help, Sherzai said the Afghan people hope the United States intends to create a long-term partnership with Afghanistan.

Sherzai said Afghanistan needs help rebuilding, equipping and supplying its medical facilities, and that health care is the first step toward security. "There's nothing more primary and immediate," he said.

"Without health, women aren't able to secure the household and, therefore, society is not secure. Without health, men are not able to work and the household situation falls apart, and, again, society is insecure."

The U.S. military has been particularly helpful so far, he said. U.S. medics are providing basic medical care; military veterinarians are treating farm animals; and Army engineer teams are directing repair and construction projects and digging hundreds of wells.

U.S. military officials are now seeking guidance from the Health Ministry on what they can do next.

Along with U.S. and coalition military forces, nongovernment organizations also have been an indispensable help, and American church groups and private U.S. citizens are doing what they can, Sherzai said.

People who want to help can communicate with the Afghan Health Ministry by writing to neurondr@hotmail.com. — *American Forces Press Service*



Thousands of American service members are deploying to the U.S. Central Command area of operations in Southwest Asia. The largest deployment is that of the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st and 3rd brigades. The division's 2nd Brigade is already in Kuwait.

PV2 Emily Daniai

Postmarks

Compiled by SSG Alberto Betancourt

From Army Posts Around the World

Paula J. Randall Pagan



USAMU's SPC Aaron F. Rebout (left) gives a few marksmanship tips to CPT Heath Harrower of the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Benning's Easley Range.

Fort Benning, Ga.

Marksmanship Team Trains Special Forces

ALTHOUGH their 2002 competitive season is over, the champion shooters of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Service Rifle Team continue passing along their skills and techniques to other soldiers.

Led by SSG Jared N. VanAalst, the team recently conducted an advanced rifle marksmanship clinic for 5th Special Forces Group members.

"We do advanced rifle marksmanship 'train the trainer' for all units, but now we're doing tactical training for special-operations units or any unit with a sniper section," said VanAalst.

He said the type of competitive shooting training the marksmen conduct correlates with the tactical training special-ops units conduct.

"We did this training so our detachment could improve its long-range marksmanship capabilities, said CPT Heath Harrower of the 5th SFG. "We're also getting techniques that we can employ for our sniper teams."

Harrower said the team emphasized basic rifle marksmanship skills — but it was more

than a refresher course.

Both on the ranges and in the classroom, the special forces soldiers learned skills such as how to read and correct for wind and to estimate range.

"The two most important things to work on are trigger squeeze and sight alignment. That's what we've been emphasizing," said Harrower "We learned variations and different techniques for trigger squeeze employed by a sniper team when engaging a target. We also used the Noptel computerized marksmanship training system, which was a very effective tool to track sight alignment before, during and after the shot."

Besides shooting on USAMU ranges, the soldiers also toured the unit's custom firearm shop, where they spoke with gunsmiths and machinists who build and modify USAMU weapons, and reloaders and ammunition technicians who ensure each round is competition-quality.

"This training enhanced our long-range shooting capability," said Harrower. "We would do it again, and recommend that other members of our unit go through the training."

— Paula J. Randall Pagan, USAMU Public Affairs Office

SPC Jacob Boyer



Soldiers

Camp Takigahara, Japan

Soldiers Train with Japanese Counterparts

SOLDIERS from the 25th Infantry Division joined their counterparts from the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force at Camp Takigahara during Operation Keen Sword/Orient Shield 2003.

The three-week-long training exercise, which stems from agreements in the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, included everything from day and night live-fires to platoon attack tactics and bunker-destroying tactics.

"This exercise gave our troops the experience of deploying overseas and working in a multinational scenario," said MAJ Richard Wilson, executive officer for the 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf. Regiment.

The Hawaii-based soldiers said the weather, which at times was below 40 degrees, became a challenge but not an obstacle.

"It was difficult training because we don't train in the cold," said PFC James Wilson, an M-203 gunner with Company A.

Despite the cold, the 25th ID soldiers persevered.

"It was a successful mission," said LTC Scott McBride, the battalion commander. "We came back a better-trained outfit and strengthened our relationship with the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force. We also made some good friends along the way." — SGT Monica R. Garreau, 17th PAD

SGT Monica R. Garreau



Soldiers of the 25th Inf. Div. move toward the next objective during joint U.S.-Japanese training undertaken as part of Operation Keen Sword/Orient Shield 2003.



Camp New York, Kuwait

Engineers Clear the Way in Kuwait

ENGINEERS and cavalry scouts led the way for the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team during recent training exercises in Kuwait.

"My soldiers, along with members of the 9th Cavalry Regiment, worked together to breach and mark obstacles which covered more than 100 kilometers," said LTC Mike Presnell, commander for the 10th Engineer Battalion. "Their efforts helped the brigade move quickly and complete its mission."

He said the exercise allowed the engineers to understand the number of vehicles a maneuver force would be moving through the breaches during combat.

Presnell also said the exercise allowed practice of the command and control of the brigade, and tested the entire logistics chain.

Using D-7 bulldozers and M-9 armored combat earthmovers, the engineers breached wire obstacles and cut through berms. Other activities included seizing bridgeheads. Everything culminated in a live-fire exercise at Udairi Range Complex. — SPC Jacob Boyer, 3rd Inf. Div. PAO

An M-113 armored personal carrier rolls through the final portion of an obstacle during the 3rd Infantry Division training exercise in Kuwait.

The Sinai Mission

SOLDIERS from the Oregon Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 186th Infantry Regiment, recently returned home after being deployed in the Sinai as part of the Multinational Force and Observers. Created after the historic 1979 Camp David Peace Accords, the MFO is tasked to "observe and report" any violations of the treaty by either Israel or Egypt in the region of the Sinai Peninsula. SSG Rebekahmae N. Bruns, a photo-journalist assigned to the unit, visually captured some moments the soldiers encountered during their deployment.



(Above) SPC John Bohlert moves away from the wire obstacle during the MFO Force Skills Competition 2002.

(Right) SGT George Gordon and SPC Tony Standifer, both medics with 1st Bn., 186th Inf., help carry a patient through a simulated NBC obstacle during the unit's Expert Field Medical Badge test.





SPC Tom Reynolds checks for possible treaty violations from an observation post overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba near the Egypt-Israel border.

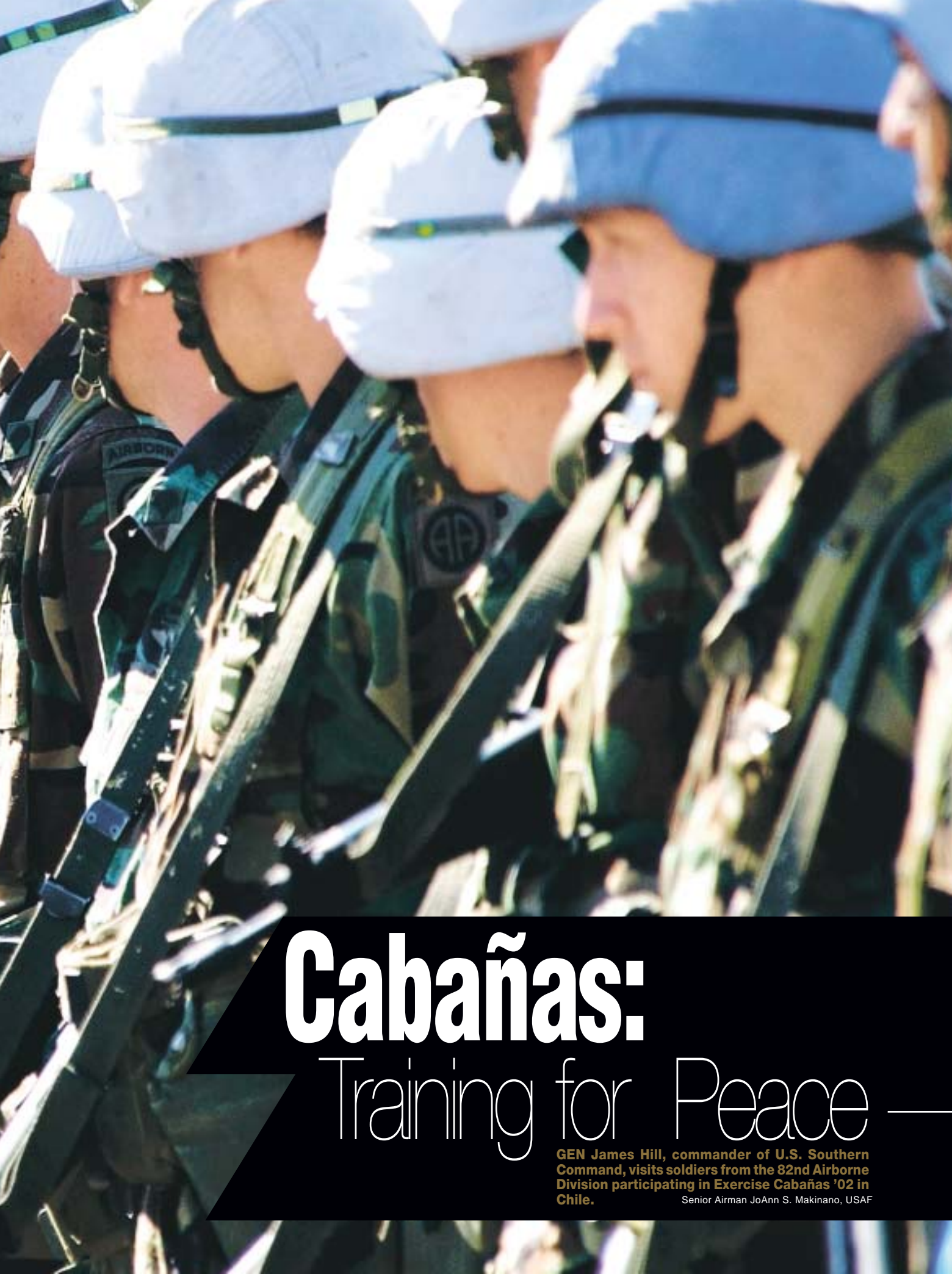


SPC Tony Standifer covers a patient while under simulated fire during the EFMB test.



Two painted rocks positioned just inside Check Point 3-D remind the soldiers why they're serving in Sinai.





Cabañas:

Training for Peace —

GEN James Hill, commander of U.S. Southern Command, visits soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division participating in Exercise Cabañas '02 in Chile.

Senior Airman JoAnn S. Makinano, USAF

Cabañas

THE United Nations has long been involved in peacekeeping missions around the world, and over the years has identified 33 key tasks that peacekeeping forces must perform.

More than 1,300 U.S. and Latin American soldiers gathered in Chile to train in those U.N. tasks during the two-week exercise dubbed Cabañas '02.

LTC Nicolas Britto, chief of the exercise's Joint Information Bureau, said Cabañas '02 replicated a U.N. peacekeeping mission involving two fictional countries that had been fighting. Four villages were caught in the middle of a demilitarized zone on opposite sides of a zone of separation, and

(continued on page 28)

This story was compiled from North Dakota Army National Guard Public Affairs Office news releases.





Soldiers from 7th Special Forces Group participate in a high-altitude, low-opening jump from a Chilean aircraft with 30 paratroopers from nine countries during Cabañas 2002.

Staff Sgt. Cherie A. Thurlby, USAF

Cabañas

(Left) Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division participate in a mine-clearing drill during the exercise.

(Right) Other soldiers from the division carry a “mine victim” on a makeshift litter during another training session.

(Far right) Chilean Army Pvt. Hector Briones Martines demonstrates the proper use of the PRC-624 radio to a group of Brazilian soldiers.

(Below) Chilean soldiers pose as civilian protestors and block a simulated United Nations aid convoy by setting fire to trees on the entrance road to Chile's Fuerte Lautaro.

(Below, right) Peruvian soldiers set up a vehicle checkpoint.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Wolfe, USAF



the exercise participants were tasked to protect that ZOS.

“Ten training lanes were set up to hone soldiers’ skills in various tasks,” Britto said. “The lanes covered everything from humanitarian aid, to identification and marking of mines, to civil-military operations.”

While many 82nd Airborne Division soldiers participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, elements of the division’s 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment, deployed to Chile for the exercise.

“This was very realistic training,” said 1st Bn.’s SSG Gary Benslay. “Our soldiers were challenged in many different scenarios that required them to react without using excessive force.”

Benslay said the exercise helped him understand that peacekeeping operations not only help ease tensions among warring factions, but also allow U.S. soldiers to become accustomed to the U.N. mandates governing peacekeeping operations.

The exercise also helped build camaraderie among the soldiers of the participating nations.

“This was a unique experience for us,” said Paraguayan Lt. Fernando Gayoso. “Ninety-nine percent of us had never been in this type of situation. We all worked together as a team. It was truly a great success.” □

PH2 Roberto Taylor, USN





Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Wolfe, USAF



PH2 Roberto Taylor, USN

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Wolfe, USAF



Gordon wears his own dog tags, plus those of his father, grandfathers and great-grandfather.

WHEN Thomas Gordon retired from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, recently, he passed the torch of three generations of family members who served — and continue to serve — to his son.

Twenty-year-old Matthew Gordon is a cadet in the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Scranton, Pa.

Now working toward his own commission as an Army second lieutenant, the younger Gordon wears his own “dog tags,” plus those of his father and two grandfathers, and the round tag his great-grandfather Earl Gordon wore in France during World War I.

Thomas Gordon said his son, while growing up, was familiar with his grandfather’s medals, as well as with the photos and mementos of his great-grandfather’s World War I service.

“This is maybe where Matt started to get the idea to join the Army,” Gordon said. “But I never pushed Matt toward the military, nor did he ever talk about it.”

Matt joined the Army hoping the service would increase his chances of becoming a

Dog tags signifying four generations of family service are those of (from top) Matthew Gordon, Thomas Gordon, Richard Cromer, William Gordon and Earl Gordon.

Pennsylvania State Police officer. The younger Gordon hopes to serve in the Military Police Corps.

Now, Thomas Gordon said his son is finding the Army to his liking.

“He loves it. He is having so much fun,” Gordon said. “Now he’s saying, ‘maybe I’ll stay in.’”

Thomas Gordon joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in 1971, while attending Elizabethtown College.

The wartime service of his father and grandfather

“had a big impact on

me believing in the military and in believing in what was right, and I didn’t think that was right,” Gordon said, referring to the actions of Vietnam-era protestors. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1973.

Yet Gordon said his parents had “mixed feelings” about their son joining the Army in such troubled times.

“My dad was proud, but he had reservations because of Vietnam,” Gordon said. “My mom was very distraught. She envisioned me going off to war and coming back the same way Dad did.”

Throughout his military career Thomas Gordon wore his dog tags, plus one his grandfather wore from World War I and one of his father’s from World War II.

Thomas Gordon, who recently retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Pennsylvania Guard after 30 years of service, was last assigned as deputy director of personnel for Headquarters, State Area Command, at Fort Indiantown Gap.

While the quality of service of the Gordon family has stood up for nearly a



Earl Gordon (seated, second from right) takes a break with his comrades in France during World War I.

century, Gordon said his son's Army is different — and better — than the one he joined 30 years ago.

"In 1971, if you didn't make it in civilian society, people told you to join the Army. In these 30 years I've seen that drastically change. Civilian society can look up to the military," Gordon said.

Gordon said his younger son, 19-year-old Shane, has been talking to Army recruiters. I'd be proud if Shane chose the Army," his father said. "But it is his choice."

Gordon said if Shane does join, he'll give him a set of the tags he wore for 30 years to continue the family tradition. — *MSG Daniel Miller, HQ STARC, PAARNG Public Affairs*



MG Eugene Klynoot, deputy commander, Headquarters, State Area Command, honored LTC Thomas Gordon (second from left) during Gordon's recent retirement ceremony at Fort Indiantown Gap. Also attending were Gordon's sons, Matthew and Shane; his wife, Carol; and his father, William.



Then-CPT Beale: Delivering donations.

assistant staff chaplain, **Chaplain (MAJ) Kenneth L. Beale Jr.**, has a way for anyone who travels to pay it forward.

Beale realized that he collects many complimentary, personal health-care products from hotels where he stays. But he seldom used the excess items he brought home with him.

"I had all these bars of soap that I didn't need, but I knew someone out there does," said Beale. "I decided to donate the stuff to area shelters."

Beale isn't the only person at the 88th RSC headquarters who travels, so he spread the word and set a collection box outside his office. Since February 2001, he's collected 684 pounds of personal-care items.

The gifts go to a different shelter in the area every month. Free health-care products aren't changing anyone's life, but possibly making it a little more comfortable, Beale said.

"I would like to hear from other people who would like to keep this effort going," he said. "Just drop me an e-mail at **kenneth.beale @usarc-emh2.army.mil**," said Beale. — *SPC Tony M. Lindback, 364th MPAD, Fort Snelling, Minn.*

Beale spread the word and set a collection box in front of the door to his office.

THE movie "Pay It Forward" showed how one person, a little boy, could change the world. Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osment) came up with a plan to fix the things that he didn't like in the world. He called it, "pay it forward."

The idea was to do a favor for three people — something they couldn't do on their own. Instead of repaying the favor, the three people would pay it forward to three other people. With everyone paying it forward, 4,782,969 people could be helped in two weeks.

The 88th Regional Support Command's



U.S. soldiers patrol the streets of Gnjane, once a hotspot of ethnic violence.



Children in Gnjilane still rush out to greet the U.S. soldiers who patrol their neighborhood streets.

Though tensions in other parts of the world have shifted attention away from Kosovo, American soldiers continue to help keep the peace in the war-torn Balkan nation.

THE bumpy bus ride from Pristina — the main entry point for soldiers arriving in Kosovo — to Camp Bondsteel, the U.S. Army's largest complex in the war-torn country, took newly arriving soldiers past abandoned lots filled with rubble, and red brick and plaster homes without doors or windows.

Other scenes, which have only more recently colored Kosovo's landscape, included countless construction sites, where workers labored feverishly to repair roads, schools and other public facilities; bustling shopping areas; and high-rise apartment buildings where white satellite dishes adorned virtually every balcony.

Along the roadside, an old man sold baskets of red grapes, images of beautiful women lounging seductively in overhead billboards advertised cigarettes, and road signs read: "The European Union — Fixing Your Roads."

At night, florescent lights in psychedelic green, pink and blue framed the roofs of numerous gas stations, which are located intermittently along the route, like oases sandwiched between the areas of disrepair

≡ Changes for Soldiers

While U.S. soldiers continue to conduct security patrols to thwart potential ethnic violence and reduce the illegal smuggling of tobacco and firearms, much has changed to positively affect the daily lives of the local people and U.S. soldiers as well, said MAJ Mark Ballesteros, a 1st Infantry Division spokesman in Würzburg, Germany.

Since the first rotation of 1st Inf. Div. soldiers from

Return to Kosovo

Story and Photos by Heike Hasenauer



Soldiers of Company C, 1st Bn., 18th Inf., at Camp Rock, a remote outpost near the border with the FYROM, monitor vehicles entering and leaving the village of Debelde.

Camp Bondsteel today is a sprawling “city,” complete with soldier living areas, a hospital, recreation facilities and an outdoor café.

U.S. soldiers are no longer required to wear the cumbersome Kevlar helmets and flak vests they’ve routinely worn for protection while on patrol.



the Schweinfurt, Germany-based 2nd Brigade arrived in Kosovo in June 1999, decreased tensions and increased feelings of security among the Kosovar Albanians and the now-minority Serb population are perhaps the most visible signs of the changes Kosovo has undergone, Ballesteros said.

Today, U.S. soldiers are no longer required to wear the cumbersome

Kevlar helmets and flak vests they’ve routinely worn for protection while on patrol, said Ballesteros. It’s a decision left to individual unit commanders.

Additionally, groups of soldiers are authorized to patronize local, KFOR-approved establishments during specified periods, provided two soldiers remain outside to patrol, said CPT Robert Gagnon, civil affairs

officer for the division’s 1st Battalion, 26th Inf. Regiment.

And Camp Bondsteel, headquarters for the U.S. KFOR contingent, is a community unto itself. It boasts a full-fledged surgical hospital, two chapels, three dining facilities, two large gyms, a two-story post exchange — even a cappuccino bar with outdoor seating, just off a stage where Morale, Welfare

and Recreation-hosted concerts are performed.

Inside the MWR facility soldiers have access to computers and the Internet. They can check out books from the library or watch videos on a big-screen TV. Fresh popcorn is available on the way in. Movies are also shown at the camp's designated "theater."

"In 1999 soldiers from the 1st Inf. Div.'s 2nd Bde. were working seven days a week, nonstop," said COL Randal Dragon, then commander of the division's 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt. and current commander of the 2nd Bde. "Now they have some time for leisure activities, physical training and college courses. They also have time to correspond with family and friends."

Reduced tensions in Kosovo have afforded U.S. soldiers better opportunities to hone their combat skills, too. "There are 13 firing ranges on or around Camp Bondsteel," Dragon said. And Bradley and Abrams simulators are located at the Army's camps Magrath and Monteith.

"Every two weeks new guys come to our 'Falcon Five' range to qualify," said SSG Saifoloi Filisi, a member of the 1st Bn., 26th Inf. In six months we've been to different ranges seven times."

Other improvements for individual soldiers include video-teleconferencing capabilities at all the base camps, which help reduce the amount of time soldiers spend traveling to and from various locations for meetings. At the same time, they may use teleconferencing to talk "face-to-face" with loved ones back home, Dragon said.

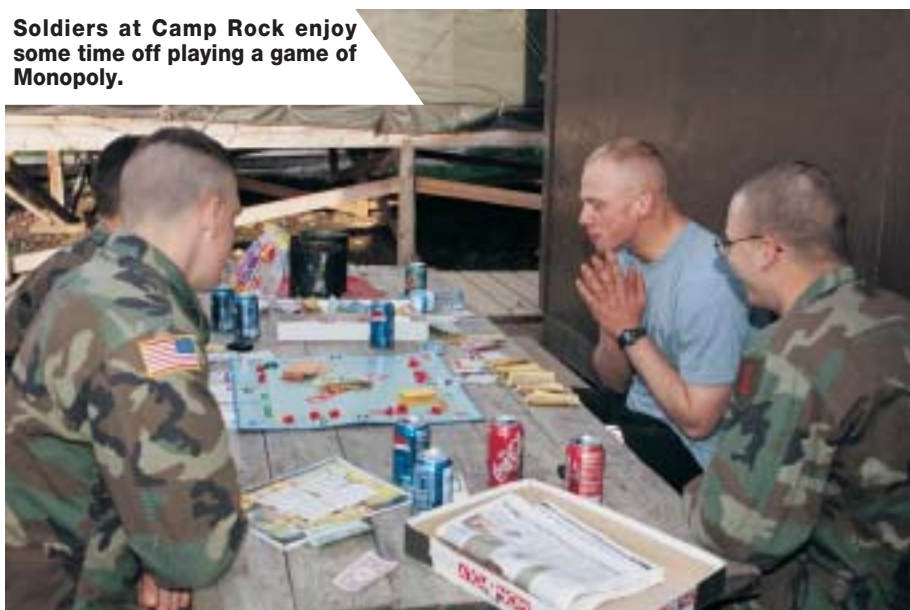
≡ 2nd Brigade Reflections

The 2nd Bde., which was the first large unit to enter Kosovo in June 1999 following the initial NATO air campaign, was also the first unit to return to Kosovo, Ballesteros said. (The division's 3rd Bde., which is currently in Kosovo, began arriving in November 2002 for its six-month rotation.)

If anyone can draw comparisons between Kosovo then and now,



Today Kosovars and Serbs alike can stroll the streets with minimal fear of being attacked by each other.



Soldiers at Camp Rock enjoy some time off playing a game of Monopoly.



Soldiers of the 1st Inf. Div.'s 1st Bn., 26th Inf., conduct a reconnaissance patrol in the village of Zegra.

soldiers of the 2nd Bde. can, he said.

Dragon went into Kosovo on June 17, 1999, he said, with two Bradley fighting vehicles. Every other day he brought a company of soldiers into Camp Able Sentry, in Skopje, Macedonia, then the initial staging area for troops moving into Kosovo.

Camp Bondsteel was just a large

area of plowed cornfields and tents. The main two-lane highway leading from Skopje to the camp was so congested that travelers spent hours trying to get to their destinations — a journey that today takes about an hour.

Dragon's first company arrived in country on June 19 and established "Radar Hill," he said. "We lived in

abandoned houses and factories. Soon thereafter, 12 U.S. platoon- and company-size units were positioned at 12 remote sites. We're down to four sites now. That says a lot for the present level of security.

"In those first weeks in country, security was limited," Dragon said. "There was no gate at Camp

Bondsteel. About 75 vehicles were lined up in the area, and our command operations center consisted of four integrated tents.”

Mines were prevalent, said Dragon, who recalled his first night in Kosovo. “In the municipality of Vitina, I watched what looked like a live-fire exercise. Tracers were going off all over the place,” he said. “And we were well aware that there were snipers who didn’t want us there.”

Communities were in shambles. Burned buildings dotted the landscape. And trash and debris littered hole-pocked streets, Dragon said.

Businesses and public facilities were closed because the Kosovar Albanians had all fled their homes. The country’s infrastructure lay in ruins. There was no civil police force, and the only medical care for critically injured mine-blast and gunshot-wound victims was provided by U.S. military forces at the combat area support hospital at Camp Bondsteel.

Chaos extended to the unlicensed, unregistered and often stolen cars that flooded the roads, Dragon said.

Kosovo Today

“I was here when the 1st Inf. Div. first arrived,” said SGT Henry Leeper of the 2nd Bde.’s 1st Bn., 77th Armor Regt., at Camp Monteith, near one of Kosovo’s largest cities, Gnjilane. “The locals were still doing ignorant stuff like burning each other’s houses down and killing each other.

“The peoples’ spirits have changed,” he said. “At first, everyone had a real dismal ‘I hate you’ kind of look on their faces. Now there are lots of smiles and friendly greetings.”

“There are still a lot of abandoned buildings,” added SSG Thomas Nunn of the division’s 1st Bn., 26th Inf.

“But the people have progressed to taking a more capitalistic view, as opposed to focusing on hatred of one another. They’re going on with their lives. They’re not throwing grenades at each other now. And they don’t need us as much as they did,” said Nunn, who was also among the first soldiers to arrive in Kosovo in 1999.

“The peoples’ spirits have changed. At first, everyone had a real dismal ‘I hate you’ kind of look on their faces. Now there are lots of smiles and friendly greetings.”

In 1999, there was no electricity or water, said Gagnon, who was in Korea at the time but is well aware of the changes that have taken place in Kosovo since his unit’s first rotation.

Now water and electricity are available. Three power generators that supply all of Kosovo are at 80 percent capacity, Gagnon said. Additionally, in the last six months, engineers have completed two water projects and rebuilt three schools and two hospitals. And aid organizations have donated new medical equipment.

“There are a lot of people out on the streets to visit friends, shop or just enjoy the outdoors. Shops are open, and there’s plenty to buy,” Gagnon said.

And to protect the Serb population

from potential retaliatory ethnic violence by Kosovar Albanians, UN-operated buses transport the Serbs to Serb-operated markets several times a week, said SSG George Warren, of the 1st Bn., 77th Armor.

Kosovo today has its own democratically elected government and president. And the country’s infrastructure is steadily improving, according to a recent report by United Nations Mission in Kosovo officials. Utilities, telephones, banking services and a civil document system have been restored.

Today, some 40,000 UN troops compose five multinational brigades in Kosovo, Ballesteros said. Among them are about 5,000 U.S. soldiers who, as part of the Multinational Brigade-East, patrol areas in the eastern portion of the country. French, German, British and Italian brigades patrol the four remaining sectors.

And while the role of UN forces is still to maintain law and order, “armed activity has decreased dramatically, to the point that it’s a non-issue,” Ballesteros said.

In October 2002, posters like this one were affixed to buildings and electrical posts, encouraging the people of Kosovo to vote. Today Kosovo has its own democratically elected government and president.





U.S. officials say the people of Kosovo are approaching their pre-1998 standard of living, food is abundant and shops are full of items for sale.

≡ Continuing Hotspots

The exception is the Serb community of Klokot, a suburb of Vitina, in the U.S.-led sector. It remains a potential trouble spot, due in part to the 2001 border agreement between the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, or FRY, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, or FYROM, Ballesteros said.

Under the agreement, land that belonged to Kosovar Albanian farmers for generations suddenly became part of Macedonia, Ballesteros said. "It's caused contention within the Albanian community in Vitina."

The unemployment rate is also a negative factor in Kosovo's effort to rebuild. In Gnjane, for example, 85 percent of the population is unemployed, said Warren. And of those who are fortunate enough to have jobs, the average salary is about 150 Euros (equivalent to \$150) per month, Warren said.

The smuggling of goods, such as cigarettes, also remains a problem, Gagnon added. Shop owners buy crates of cigarettes that have been brought into the country illegally to avoid paying taxes on them. Some soldiers have said the quality of the tobacco used in these cigarettes, which sell for 3.70 Euros (or \$3.70) per

carton, can't compare to the U.S. standard.

≡ Camp Rock

On a mountaintop in Kosovo, just 1,000 meters from the FYROM, three platoons of 1st Inf. Div. soldiers live in wooden huts at Camp Rock, and they're not the popular U.S. contractor-built SEAhuts prevalent at other U.S. base camps in Kosovo. One shack looks like a conglomeration of scrap wood pieced together, with olive-drab tarp covering any openings.

Because there is no dining facility at the site, helicopters of the division's 2nd Bn., 1st Aviation Regt., at Camp Bondsteel deliver dinner every day, said SSG Scott Rideout, of the 1st Bn., 18th Inf. Regt.

The soldiers deployed to this site rotate out to Camp Magrath every 10 days or so, Rideout said, so they can take advantage of such "creature comforts" as hot showers and regular dining-facility meals.

"Being at Camp Rock has its advantages," he continued. "It's about as far away from the 'flagpole' as you can get. And the view of the valley below is awesome." In the autumn, it's like being in the Shenandoah Valley in West Virginia, said Rideout. "Also, we can practice our infantry tactics here

without interruptions."

Cows plod down the mountain, just outside the camp's concertina-wire perimeter, the bells around their necks clanging persistently.

From his lookout, a soldier on watch can peer into the FYROM, where U.S. soldiers patrol the valley for smugglers. And he can see the red roofs of the houses in the Kosovar village of Debelde. The soldiers at Camp Rock monitor vehicles entering the village to help deter smuggling and monitor the refugee flow between the FYROM and Kosovo, Rideout said.

≡ Camp Zegra

"There's a large population of displaced people here," said 1LT David Alvarey, fire-support officer for the 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Regt., which has two platoons stationed at Camp Zegra, a tiny U.S. outpost near the FYROM border.

As the unit's information officer, Alvarey confers with community leaders regularly to stay abreast of local events and prevent illegal activities.

Many Serbs lived in the area before the NATO bombing campaign was conducted against Yugoslavia in 1999. The bombing was triggered by now-deposed Yugoslav president Slobodan

"One of the major thrusts here has been to establish a civilian institution that will last after we're gone."

Milosevic's repression of the province's ethnic Albanian majority, Alvarey said.

The city of Donja Budriga lies several miles to the north of Camp Zegra, he added. "The Serbs who once lived in Zegra moved to Donja Budriga because it was the closest established Serb town."

Recently, PV2 Jeff Herling of the 1st Bn., 26th Inf., went door to door counting people, taking names and inquiring about what jobs the people perform — for a national census. "I discovered that most of the people in the villages are farmers, loggers or small-shop owners," he said.

"We're also gathering intelligence on abandoned buildings, businesses and their owners, and such landmarks as the school and the mosque," said Nunn. "We're taking photos of people and places to hand over to the next unit that comes in so they won't have to repeat the research we've already done."

≡ Sporadic Violence

The soldiers who conduct presence patrols and perform vehicle checks and reconnaissance have witnessed several "incidents" during the 2nd Bde.'s most recent rotation, Ballesteros said. One involved five explosions in a Klokot housing area in July in which two U.S. soldiers were injured.

In October 2002, witnesses reported a Serb woman was killed when she stepped on a mine while working in a cornfield. And several U.S. soldiers barely escaped injury after a

Serb man asked them to remove an unidentified bag from his porch. Just after the soldiers moved the bag it exploded, Ballesteros said.

"I've seen places like this on CNN, but being here has given me a whole new perspective," said PFC Jason Digham. He was in the area when a local resident fired an AK-47 assault rifle.

"Later we found out that it's a tradition in Kosovo to fire a weapon during a wedding ceremony," Digham said. The man, who was later confronted about the firearm, realized his mistake and turned the weapon over to military officials without incident, Digham said.

≡ Kosovo's Future

"When I first saw all the construction at Camp Bondsteel, I thought, 'The U.S. Army is building a whole new city.' And they were," said a local Kosovar-Albanian man who is a driver for U.S. personnel at Camp Bondsteel. "I know the Army's going to be here for a long time."

That belief gives the local people great hope for the future, the driver said. Besides the obvious security issues answered by KFOR's presence, the coalition forces' installations have provided many jobs for local citizens.

The U.N. Mission in Kosovo, the recently formed Kosovo Police Service, and numerous other aid organizations also provide job opportunities, from drivers, to grounds and maintenance personnel, to food-service workers and cashiers, book-keepers and medical professionals.

"One of the major thrusts here has been to establish a civilian institution that will last after we're gone," said Dragon. "The Kosovo Police Service, for example, is a multi-ethnic organization of Kosovar Albanians and Serbs.

The KPS is an eight-year program that began almost three years ago, said Gagnon. Its members, composed of 70 percent Serbs and 30 percent Albanians, undergo one year of training before joining the force. Later, they work joint patrols.

"The people are approaching their pre-1998 standard of living," Dragon added. In September 1999, medics saw four trauma cases per week resulting from gunshot wounds and mine explosions. Today, such cases are few and far between.

Additionally, civilian hospitals are now operating efficiently, and some of them are multi-ethnic, Dragon said.

"Order has come to a place that only two years ago was in total chaos," he said. □



Soldiers at Camp Zegra pull guard duty at one of the most austere U.S. camps in Kosovo.

WHENEVER the Army deploys to a world hotspot, air-defense soldiers are usually among the first to go. And with good reason — neutralizing the threat of attack by hostile aircraft or tactical ballistic missiles is essential whether the Army is engaged in full-scale combat, participating in peacekeeping operations or defending the nation against terrorist attack.

And few military forces are as well equipped for the air-defense mission as is the Army. From short-range systems like the shoulder-launched Stinger to the long-range and combat-proven Patriot, the Army's air-defense weapons and sensors have stood watch from the deserts of the Middle East to the streets of Washington, D.C.

It's no wonder, then, that the Army strives to produce the world's finest air-defense soldiers. And according to most air defenders, that's a task for which the wide-open spaces and uncrowded skies of Texas are ideally suited.

(Continued on page 18)

A Patriot missile downs a target during a test on Fort Bliss's McGregor Range. Training conducted at the Texas post ensures Army air defenders are ready to engage any airborne threat.

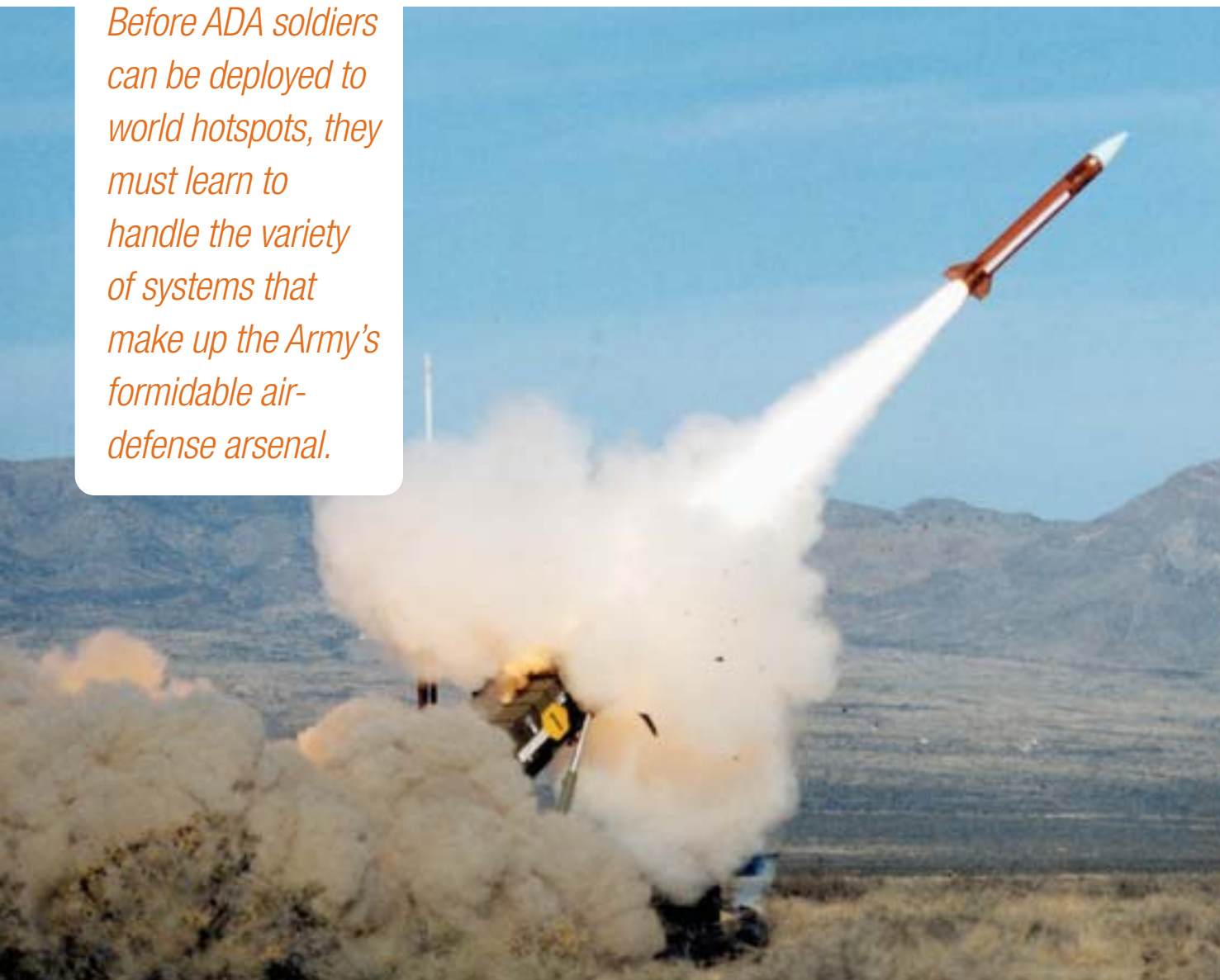
School for Air D

Defenders

Story by Steve Harding



Before ADA soldiers can be deployed to world hotspots, they must learn to handle the variety of systems that make up the Army's formidable air-defense arsenal.



At the ADA School soldiers learn to deploy and operate the long-range, all-altitude, all-weather Patriot.

Steve Harding



Use of ADA-specific simulators helps ensure comprehensive training in both the Officer Basic Course and Captain's Career Course.

(Continued from page 40)

Home of Army Air Defense

Located in El Paso, Fort Bliss is home to the U.S. Army Air Defense School, the majority of operational Patriot units, and such other organizations as the Sergeants Major Academy and William Beaumont Army Medical Center. And, according to COL Wallace B. Hobson, it's the ideal home for the Army's air defenders.

"Fort Bliss is an extremely large installation, with more than 1.1 million acres," said Hobson, the post's former garrison commander and currently the Air Defense School's chief of staff. "It encompasses the northeast quadrant of

El Paso, but about two-thirds of Fort Bliss and its McGregor Range is actually in New Mexico. Of that total area, less than one half of one percent is environmentally sensitive. That means we can do everything from individual soldier training to brigade-on-brigade maneuvers.”

The post is also well equipped to support the frequent deployments of its resident ADA units, Hobson said.

“Fort Bliss has absolutely first-rate deployment facilities. We just recently opened a new departure airfield control facility, and because our Biggs Army Airfield has the third-longest runway in the country, we can handle the largest transport aircraft in the inventory — up to six of them at a time,” he said. “We’re also building a brand-new, \$24 million rail facility that will open in the summer of 2004.”

But before ADA soldiers can be deployed to world hotspots, they must learn to handle the variety of systems that make up the Army’s formidable air-defense arsenal.

≡ A Range of Weapons

Army air-defense systems provide coverage from ground level into the

high atmosphere, Hobson said.

“At the lowest level is the Stinger missile, which comes in both shoulder-launched and vehicle-mounted versions,” he said. “It’s a ‘fire-and-forget’ weapon that provides short-range air defense, or SHORAD, against such low-altitude threats as fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles and a limited number of cruise missiles.”

Referred to as MANPADS (man-portable air-defense system) in its shoulder-launched version, Stinger is also a component in the Humvee-mounted Avenger, Hobson said. The two-man Avenger system consists of a Humvee chassis mounting a rotating turret, which carries eight ready-to-fire Stingers and a single .50-caliber machine gun.

Rounding out the SHORAD line-up, Hobson said, is the Bradley Linebacker, a

standard Bradley fighting vehicle fitted with a four-round Stinger launcher and a 25mm chain gun.

At the other end of the spectrum is the long-range, all-altitude, all-weather Patriot system, which is intended to counter tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and advanced aircraft, Hobson said. It was the Patriot and its associated radars that so spectacularly defeated incoming Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf War.



The Stinger missile is the cornerstone of the Army’s short-range air defenses. The six-week Stinger-only course includes both active-duty and National Guard soldiers.

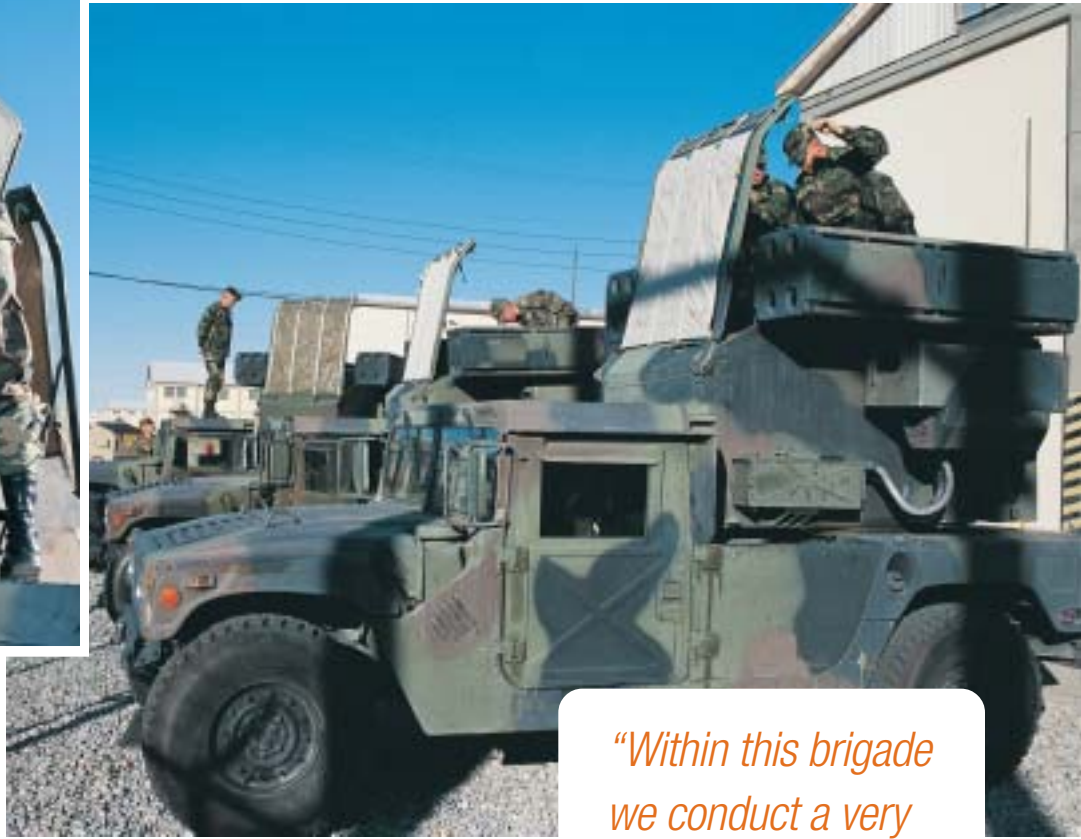
Steve Harding



With PT and breakfast over, members of one of the 6th ADA Brigade’s initial-entry training companies move out.



A student in the 10-week Avenger course removes a training round from one of his vehicle's two launchers (above), while other soldiers prepare their vehicles for the day's training (right).



"Within this brigade we conduct a very wide range of ADA training for both enlisted soldiers and officers," said SFC James A. Hartford, ... "And we don't think it's done better anywhere else."

Taken together, the Army's short- and long-range weapons and sensors form a sophisticated and integrated air-defense umbrella whose capabilities, Hobson said, are matched by the quality of the soldiers who operate them.

And creating those skilled and proficient soldiers is the mission of U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, or USAADAS.

≡ The ADA Schoolhouse

The USAADAS turns out both enlisted and officer air defenders. It offers initial-entry training for enlisted air-defense soldiers through the 6th ADA Brigade, and also conducts the ADA Officer Basic Course, the Captain's Career Course, the Pre-Command Course and the Warrant Officer Advanced Course.

The 6th ADA Bde. consists of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th battalions, as well as the 1st Bn., 56th ADA Regiment. The

latter is the initial-entry training unit for new soldiers destined for ADA MOSs, and includes a transportation unit — Company D — that trains the soldiers who drive the vehicles used by ADA units. The 6th ADA's 2nd Bn. teaches SHORAD, the 3rd teaches Patriot, and the 4th teaches the ADA brigade- and battalion-level pre-command course and conducts the security-assistance training program for foreign students.

"Within this brigade we conduct a very wide range of ADA training for both enlisted soldiers and officers," said SFC James A. Hartford, the 1st Bn. drill sergeant of the year for 2002. "And we don't think it's done better anywhere else."

≡ Enlisted Soldiers ...

Training for initial-entry soldiers entails a rigorous and comprehensive introduction to both the Army and ADA, Hartford said.

"This is the first exposure most of these young people have to the Army, and we want to instill in them the pride and knowledge that all soldiers should have," he said. "The training is not just ADA-specific, either. They learn all the things that every initial-entry soldier learns, no matter where the training is conducted."

Once through basic training, the fledgling ADA soldiers move on to

MOS-specific training in one of the 6th Bde. battalions. The length of the MOS course depends on the system, said SSG Roberto Sanchez Chavez of Battery C, 2nd Bn., 6th ADA, an instructor in the Avenger course.

"The MANPADS, Stinger-only course, for example, is six weeks, while the full Avenger course is 10 weeks," Chavez said. "In this course we get a mixture of active-duty and National Guard soldiers, and every student goes through the MANPADS section first. Then the active-duty soldiers and those from the Florida National Guard go on to the Avenger training."

Training in the 10-week Bradley Linebacker course is also split, said instructor SFC Barry L. Chandler, in that students learn both ADA and Bradley skills.

"Most of our students come here with an interest in armored vehicles, and we teach them how to blend the vehicle and the system into one complete battlefield package," said Chandler, of Btry. B, 2-6 ADA. "We're a division asset, and we go wherever the division needs us to be. We're mobile, but these soldiers learn early on that we're still part of the whole ADA team."

That team also includes a variety of radars and other sensors, and training for the soldiers who operate those systems also varies in length, said SFC Clifton Tucker of Btry. D, 2-6 ADA, the chief instructor in the Air Defense Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence course.

"The course is either 10 or 19 weeks long, depending on the particular soldier's intended assignment," Tucker said. "Those individuals who will be assigned to SHORAD units stay for 10 weeks, while those who will go to Patriot units are here for 19 weeks."

It helps, Tucker said, that most of his students don't arrive completely unprepared for the complex course.

"Most of the students are pretty well educated, and since this is primarily a computer-based system we get a lot of very computer-savvy

young people," he said. "They take to this MOS pretty quickly, because most of them have been dealing with computers for most of their lives."

From the students' point of view, the fact that all their instructors have real-world experience with the systems they're teaching is a major plus, said PV1 John R. Casterline, a student in the Avenger course.

"The instructors are all experienced ADA soldiers, so they know the topic inside and out," Casterline said. "They know how to teach you what you need to know. There is a fair amount to learn, but they present it in a way that is easy to digest."

≡ ... And Officers, Too

The training provided for ADA officers is equally as comprehensive

(Right and below) A student practices erecting the AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radar. The compact system is the primary ADA sensor in the forward battle area, and provides early warning and target data to weapons such as the Bradley Linebacker, Avenger and MANPADS.



Steve Harding (both)





Steve Harding (both)

(Right) Soldiers prepare a Patriot launcher and other equipment for shipment to the Port of Beaumont, Texas, for onward transportation overseas. Fort Bliss-based ADA units routinely deploy abroad.

(Above) And among the places they deploy to is Kuwait, where the Patriot launcher seen here is one of several protecting a key installation.

and just as well presented, said LTC Chris Moylan, commander of 4th Bn., 6th ADA. And with good reason.

“Air defense is a tremendously complex form of warfare, and ADA officers at all levels have to be proficient both as military leaders and as technical experts,” Moylan said. “Continuing education throughout an officer’s career is key, and we offer programs here for officers from lieutenant through lieutenant colonel.”

But in many ways, Moylan said, it’s the first level of training — the ADA Officer Basic Course — that’s the most important.

“Young lieutenants can be handed a tremendous amount of responsibility, in that they must know both the technical aspects of the ADA system and also know how to undertake staff-officer duties at the battalion level,” he said. “We make a point of mentioning, for example, that in Afghanistan the first air defender on



“As Sept. 11 showed us, the threat of air attack — anywhere, anytime — is one we have to take seriously.”

the ground was a first lieutenant from the 10th Mountain Division. When you tell incoming young officers that, it really opens their eyes.”

The school runs four OBCs a year, with between 70 and 100 lieutenants in each, Moylan said. Each OBC is conducted in two phases: The 10-week common-core phase covers doctrine, leadership, administration, logistics and threat organizations,



while the 10-week weapon-specific phase teaches basic system skills and tactical knowledge, and how to apply the skills doctrinally.

“Our mission is to produce lieutenants who are technically and tactically competent, have the ‘warrior ethos’ of an infantry or armor officer, and have the skills of a staff officer,” Moylan said. “We concentrate on preparing these

officers as completely as possible for the jobs they’ll do when they leave here.

“And it’s important that they and all air defense soldiers be as prepared as we can make them, because defending our soldiers and our nation is a real-world mission,” Moylan said. “As Sept. 11 showed us, the threat of air attack — anywhere, anytime — is one we have to take seriously.” □

For more on Fort Bliss and the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, visit www.bliss.army.mil.



Around the Services

Compiled by *SSG Alberto Betancourt*
from service reports



Navy

Emergency-rescue personnel aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln* successfully conducted a recent mass-casualty drill. The ship, her embarked air wing and other vessels of the carrier's battle group were conducting missions in the Western Pacific when their deployment was extended as part of the nation's preparations for a possible war with Iraq.



PH3 Jennifer Nichols, USN



Cpl. Andrew W. Miller, USMC

Marines

The Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa conducted a two-day intercept exercise with maritime forces from the Combined Task Force-150. Aboard the *USS Mount Whitney* and Spanish flagship *Navarra*, the two headquarters exercised operational staff procedures improving interoperability between coalition forces. The German frigate *Mecklenburg-Vorpommern* and German tanker *Rhon* served as maneuver and support elements throughout the training.



Air Force

The Air Force successfully launched a Titan II booster from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The joint government and industry project, dubbed "Coriolis," placed a Navy windsat radiometer and an Air Force solar mass ejection imager in a low Earth-Sun synchronous orbit to provide meteorological information on wind speed and early warning of coronal mass ejections.



Daniel Saxhor



The Corps Engages:

Alaska Earthquake of 1964

THIRTY-NINE years ago this month, a violent earthquake rocked 50,000 square miles of south-central Alaska, causing more than \$500 million in property damage. The temblor released twice as much energy as the quake that destroyed San Francisco in 1906.

The Corps of Engineers, in association with the Office of Emergency Planning, moved quickly to help communities in distress. Though many of their own homes were in ruins, the Corps' Alaska District employees reported for duty immediately.

Their first priority was reopening highways and re-establishing essential water and fuel supplies. Racing against the calendar, the Corps managed to complete most of the repairs before the Alaskan winter arrived. Additionally, they channeled most of the restoration work to hard-hit local businesses, providing employment to residents whose livelihood was disrupted.

The Corps spent more than \$110 million on salvage, rescue and rehabilitation operations in Alaska.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of History.
Photographs courtesy the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

The quake also caused the collapse of a section of Anchorage's Fourth Avenue.



An earthquake-generated tsunami battered the waterfront at Kodiak.



Government Hill elementary school was ripped in half when the earth beneath it shifted.

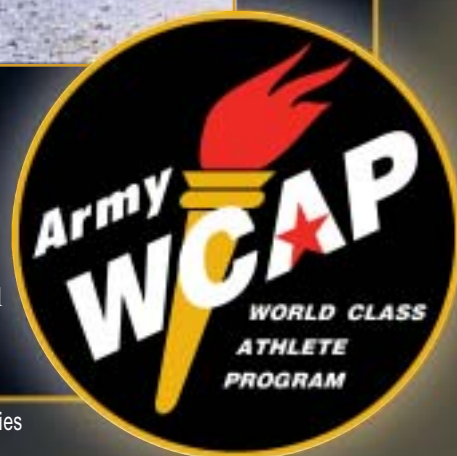


DISTANCE RUNNER

1LT RYAN KIRKPATRICK



1LT Ryan Kirkpatrick graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 2000. Upon completion of his Officer Basic Course, he joined the World Class Athlete Program. Kirkpatrick's most recent accomplishments include the 2002 Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., in which he led a field of more than 11,000 runners, and taking first in the U.S. Track and Field National 10K Championships. He currently trains with coach Arturo Barrios in Boulder, Colo.



WCAP is one of 50 morale, welfare and recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center